

OHIO MANUAL OF UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

INTRODUCTION

Standard:

As defined in Section 4511.01(QQ) of the Ohio Revised Code (O.R.C.), traffic control devices shall be defined as:

all flaggers, signs, signals, markings, and devices placed or erected by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction, for the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic, including signs denoting names of streets and highways.

The “Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices” (OMUTCD) has been developed pursuant to Section 4511.09 of the O.R.C. to establish standards for the use of traffic control devices in the State of Ohio. Sections 4511.10 and 4511.11 of the O.R.C. address the responsibilities that ODOT and local highway authorities have to place and maintain traffic control devices on all highways within their respective jurisdictions in conformance with the OMUTCD (see Appendix B2).

Any traffic control device design or application provision contained in this Manual shall be considered to be in the public domain. Traffic control devices contained in this Manual shall not be protected by a patent or copyright, except for the Interstate Shield.

Support:

The need for uniform standards was recognized long ago. Ohio published its first recorded “Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices For Streets and Highways” in 1924. Subsequent editions and revisions of the OMUTCD have in large part been updates to conform to changes in the national standards. Table I-1 traces the evolution of the OMUTCD.

Standard:

The U.S. Secretary of Transportation, under authority granted by the Highway Safety Act of 1966, decreed that traffic control devices on all streets and highways open to public travel in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 109(d) and 402(a) in each State shall be in substantial conformance with the Standards issued or endorsed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Support:

23 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations), Part 655.603 adopts FHWA's "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices" (MUTCD) as the national standard for any street, highway, or bicycle trail open to public travel in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 109(d) and 402(a).

Section 4511.09 of the Ohio Revised Code (see Appendix B2) requires the "Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices" to "correlate with, and so far as possible conform to" FHWA's national MUTCD.

The Standard, Guidance, Option, and Support material described in the OMUTCD provide the transportation professional with the information needed to make appropriate decisions regarding the use of traffic control devices on streets and highways. The material in this **Manual** is organized to better differentiate between Standards that must be satisfied for the particular circumstances of a situation, Guidances that should be followed for the particular circumstances of a situation, and Options that may be applicable for the particular circumstances of a situation.

Throughout this Manual the headings Standard, Guidance, Option, and Support are used to classify the nature of the text that follows. Figures, tables, and illustrations supplement the text and might constitute a Standard, Guidance, Option, or Support. The user needs to refer to the appropriate text to classify the nature of the figure, table, or illustration.

Standard:

When used in this Manual, the text headings shall be defined as follows:

1. **Standard**—a statement of required, mandatory, or specifically prohibitive practice regarding a traffic control device. All standards are labeled, and the text appears in bold large type. The verb "shall" is typically used. Standards are sometimes modified by Options.
2. **Guidance**—a statement of recommended, but not mandatory, practice in typical situations, with deviations allowed if engineering judgment or engineering study indicates the deviation to be appropriate. All Guidance statements are labeled and the text appears in large type. Guidance text is the same size as Standard text, but it is not bold. The verb "should" is typically used. Guidance statements are sometimes modified by Options.
3. **Option**—a statement of practice that is a permissive condition and carries no requirement or recommendation. Options may contain allowable modifications to a Standard or Guidance. All Option statements are labeled, and the text appears in small type. The verb "may" is typically used.

4. **Support—an informational statement that does not convey any degree of mandate, recommendation, authorization, prohibition, or enforceable condition. Support statements are labeled, and the text appears in small type. The verbs “shall,” “should,” and “may” are not used in Support statements.**

Support:

Throughout this Manual, dimensions, distances, *etc.* are provided in both the International System of Units, a modernized version of the Metric system, and the English equivalent units (shown in parentheses).

Standard:

The preferred system of measurement shall be English units, and metric legends shall not be used on traffic control signs.

Guidance:

If the public agency should decide to use the International System of Units (Metric), the chosen units should be specified on plan drawings. Care should be taken to ensure that the chosen unit of measurement is known to those responsible for designing, installing, or maintaining traffic control devices.

Table I-1. Evolution of the OMUTCD

Edition	Name	Approval	Effective Date
1924	Manual of Standard Signs and Marker		5/24
1934	Manual of Standard Signs, Markers, and Pavement Marking		7/34
1943	Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices		1943
1952	Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices		3/52
1956	Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices		4/56
1962	Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Supplement (Part 7 reprint) (Using Journal Entry system to record Director's "approval.")	Vol.47: pg 885; dated 8/27/62	8/27/62
1963	Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices	Vol.48; pg 770; dated 9/19/63 Vol.52; pg 151; dated 3/3/67 Vol.53; pg 108; dated 2/5/68 Vol.54; pg 873; dated 9/15/69 Vol.56; pg 174; dated 2/19/71	9/19/63 3/25/67 3/29/68 10/31/69 3/15/71
1972	Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices – transition period from 1963 Edition to 1972 Edition; there was an overlap during this period between the two manual editions. The 1975 revisions were distributed together on 7/1/1975.	Vol.56; pg.997; dated 11/17/71 Vol.57; pg 379; dated 4/13/72 Vol.58; pg 179; dated 3/5/73 Vol.58; pg 788; dated 8/3/73 Vol.59; pg 1078; dated 11/1/74 Vol.60; pg 311; dated 3/31/75 Vol.60; pg 263; dated 3/13/75	1/3/72 5/31/72 4/25/73 9/10/73 11/1/74 3/31/75 7/1/75
1972	Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices The 1976 and both 1977 revisions were distributed together. The 1992 revisions were distributed together on 7/27/1992. (Journal Entries no longer used. Transmittal letter constitutes the Director's "approval.")	Vol.61; pg 817; dated 8/11/76 Vol.62; pg 739; dated 6/27/77 Vol.62; pg 1081; dated 9/19/77 Vol.64; pg 642; dated 6/27/79 Vol.67; pg 752; dated 7/16/82 Vol.71; pg 1085; dated 11/14/86 Vol.75; pg 7; dated 5/22/90 Vol. 76; pg 3 dated 10/1/91 Vol.77; pg 1 dated 7/7/92 Vol.77; pg 1 dated 7/21/92 Vol.79; pg 1 dated 6/6/94 Vol.80; pg 14; dated 6/22/95 Vol.81; pg 1; dated 9/10/96 Vol.81; pg 1; dated 9/16/96 Adopted by Director 4/15/99	9/1/76 7/1/77 11/3/77 10/1/79 9/7/82 2/1/87 7/9/90 10/1/91 7/7/92 7/27/92 8/1/94 8/14/95 9/10/96 1/1/97 6/1/99
2003	Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices	8/1/03	9/1/03